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MARPLE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF

JAMES JACKSON,

B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., T.C.D.,

Medical Officer of Health,

AND

D. J. DIVER,

A.R.S.I., M. Mun., and C.E.,

Surveyor and Inspector.



FOR THE YEAR 1925.

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MARPLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEAR 1925.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MARPLE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sir and Gentlemen,—

I have pleasure in submitting to your notice my Fifth Annual Report on the health of your district.

As per Circular 648 of the Ministry of Health, dated 10th December, 1925, this year's Report takes the form of a Survey Report, which has to be presented every five years, and is therefore more exhaustive than any previous Report submitted by me.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the district is 3,053 acres, urban and rural. The population at the 1921 Census was 6,613, and that estimated by Registrar-General for the year 1925 is 6,590.

The physical features and character of the district are of a hilly nature, with the river Goyt winding through its outer borders, and is built on a slope with west and south-west aspect, its height above sea level varying between 450 and 633 feet.

The district is well drained, the sub-soil being clay, with occasional faults of sand and marl, and the sloping character of the district makes the drainage natural, and renders it fairly dry and healthy.

The number of Inhabited Houses in the district is 1,847; the Rateable Value is £53,164, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £180.

The district is mainly a residential one, populated chiefly by persons working in Manchester and adjoining towns, and residing here in fairly large houses.

There are three mills and several small workshops in the district; the mills carry on the industry of cotton spinning and manufacturing, while metal refining and calico printing is carried on in the workshops.

The smaller cottages, which are tenanted chiefly by the work-people from the mills, are mostly of a good type, with a fair amount of ventilation.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1925 and previous Years.

MARPLE URBAN DISTRICT

Year.	For Death Rate. Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Uncor-rected	Nett.		No.	Rate	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Residents registered elsewhere	Under 1 yr. of age		At all Ages.	
			No.	Rate.					No.	Rate per 1,000 registered Births	No.	Rate.
1915	6650	96	97	14.4	76	11.14	...	10	12	125.0	86	12.9
1916	6650	107	107	16.9	56	8.4	...	8	4	37.3	64	9.6
1917	6080	77	80	11.8	62	11.9	...	12	5	62.5	75	12.3
1918	6027	86	86	12.7	72	11.9	...	9	11	127.0	81	13.04
1919	6381	93	93	14.0	64	10.0	...	14	6	64.7	78	12.2
1920	6635	114	117	17.6	61	9.19	1	16	6	51.28	76	11.4
1921	6610	79	83	12.5	62	9.38	...	14	6	72.28	76	11.49
1922	6566	81	91	13.8	69	10.50	...	14	1	10.90	83	12.6
1923	6564	94	96	14.6	74	11.27	...	8	6	62.29	82	12.4
1924	6631	93	92	13.8	71	10.7	3	15	1	10.0	86	12.9
1925	6590	62	66	10.0	82	12.4	7	11	6	90.0	93	14.1

TABLE II.

Deaths registered during the Calendar Year 1925, classified by clause.
MARPLE URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Nett Deaths of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.		
		All Ages.	Males.	Females.
All Causes —	Certified	82	40	42
"	Uncertified .....	...		...
Whooping Cough	... ..	2	1	1
Influenza	... ..	4	2	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	... ..	4	2	2
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	... ..	1	...	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	... ..	10	4	6
Rheumatic Fever	... ..	1	1	
Diabetes	... ..	1	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	... ..	3		3
Heart Disease	... ..	11	6	5
Arterio Sclerosis	... ..	7	4	3
Bronchitis	... ..	3	2	1
Pneumonia	... ..	2	2	
Other Respiratory Diseases	... ..	1	...	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	... ..	1	1	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	... ..	1	...	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	... ..	2	...	2
Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	... ..	1	...	1
Congenital Debility	... ..	3	3	...
Suicide	... ..	1	...	1
Other Deaths from Violence	... ..	4	3	1
Other Defined Diseases	... ..	19	9	10
Totals	.....	82	40	32

TABLE III.
INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

MARPLE URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.	Total under 4 weeks.							Total deaths under 1 year.
	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.
All causes—Certified	1	2	1	...	4	1	1	...
Premature Birth	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Hæmorrhagic Disease ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malformation of Heart ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spina Bifida ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Totals	1	2	1	...	4	1	1	...
								6

The amount of Poor Law Relief administered to residents in the District during the year ending 31st March, 1926, was £297. The number of patients admitted to the Union Institution Mental Ward, from the district, was 1, and the number of persons admitted to the Union Hospital during the same period was 1.

No statistics are available for the four preceding years as to the amount of Poor Law Relief granted in the district.

Early in the year 1921 an epidemic of mumps broke out in the district, but apart from a slight outbreak of measles in 1922 and intermittent cases of scarlet fever, no serious outbreak of sickness has occurred in the district in the period under review.

The Infantile Death Rate for the district for the past year shows a serious increase over that of last year. No fewer than six children under the age of one year died during the year 1925, which gives a figure of 90 Deaths under one year of age per 1,000 Births.

It is hoped that this very high percentage of deaths of children under 12 months of age will be considerably less, if not extinguished, during the present year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority or County Council.

The Local Authority do not provide or own any Hospital for the treatment of (1) Tuberculosis, (2) Maternity, (3) Children, (4) Fever or Small Pox, but retain two Beds at the Hyde Isolation Hospital for the treatment of cases of Infectious Diseases from the district, and 2 additional Beds for Small Pox cases.

No Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children is made in the district.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

No Ambulance is provided for (a) Infectious Diseases, (b) non-infectious cases, and accident cases.

Cases of infectious diseases are removed in the Ambulance provided by the Hyde Corporation for the purpose, while in non-infectious and accident cases the ambulances attached to the Stockport and Manchester Infirmaries are requisitioned, if necessary.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

There are no Day Nurseries, School Clinics, Tuberculosis Dispensaries, or Treatment Centres, for Venereal Diseases in the district.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

The Medical Officer of Health for the district is Dr. Jas. Jackson, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., T.C.D. (part-time officer).

The Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector, Mr. D. J. Diver, A.R.S.I., who is a full-time officer.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

Neither the Local Authority nor the County Council provide or engage in any nursing services in the district. All professional nursing in the home is done privately, with the exception of that carried out by the Marple Sick Nursing Society. This Society provide and maintain a District Nurse to administer to the needs of, generally, the poorer classes, in cases of sickness other than infectious diseases.

The Society does not co-ordinate in any way with the Local Authority, nor do any financial arrangements exist between the two bodies, the Sick Nursing Association being supported entirely by voluntary contributions.

MIDWIVES.

The Local Authority do not employ or subsidise any practising midwives in the district.

There are two certified midwives practising in the area.

CHEMICAL WORK.

No arrangements are in force for chemical work in the district during the period under review.

All work and reports by the Public Analyst are carried out under the direction of the Cheshire County Council.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

The following Adoptive Acts are in force in the district:—Private Street Works Act, 1892; Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889; Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890; Public Health Amendment Act, 1907.

And the following Bye-Laws:—New Streets and Buildings, Common Lodging Houses, Slaughter-houses, Cleansing and Scavenging, Offensive Trades, and, Hackney Carriages.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the district is obtained from the Stockport Corporation, from the Kinder Reservoirs, and is good in quality.

A plentiful supply is maintained throughout the greater portion of the district, the parts suffering from shortage being the Ridge and Top Lock.

During the period under review many new extensions to water mains have taken place, also many of the 3in. mains in the district have been replaced by 6in. mains, such replacement undoubtedly leading to a more efficient supply to new and existing properties. No samples of water were chemically or bacteriologically examined during the period under review.

The number of houses in the district supplied with water from the municipal supply is 1,834, premises without town supply being chiefly isolated farms.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The only river passing through the district is the River Goyt, which subsequently joins the River Mersey at Stockport. No action as to presence or absence of pollution is taken by the local authority, this duty being undertaken by the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The works for the purification of sewage up to three times dry weather flow consist of one screening chamber of 6,000 gallons capacity, septic tanks of 95,000 gallons capacity, primary filters of 600 yards superficial area, secondary filters of 500 yards superficial area, and three acres of land.

The works for dealing with storm water above three times dry weather flow consist of two Tanks of a total capacity of 80,000 gallons. The sewage flowing to the Sewage Works in dry weather is 160,000 gallons per day. The foregoing remarks refer to the Sewage

Works owned by the Council, and situate at Dooley Lane, and these works take the greater part of the sewage from the district.

The final effluent is turned into the River Goyt, and is frequently tested by Inspectors of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee, and during the period under review all such samples taken have proved satisfactory.

Portions of the north-westerly part of district, the sewage is turned into the sewers of Ludworth, Mellor and Low Marple Joint Sewerage Board, the Council being one of the constituent bodies, and whose outfall works are situated at Compstall.

Extensions to sewers in Carr Brow, Andrew Lane, Brabyns Brow, and part of Strines Road, have been carried out during the last five years, but some outlying parts of the district are still without a proper system of sewers, the chief of which are Strines Road (Strines), Stone Row, Turf Lea, Ridge End, Windlehurst Road, and Barnsfold.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The disposal of excrement is dealt with by three methods, namely, water carriage, pails, middens.

The following table indicates the number of conversions, etc., carried out in the district during the period 1921 to 1925 inclusive, the first table indicating the position in 1921, and the latter in 1925:—

	1921.	1925.
Water Closets	1037	1315
Slop Water Closets	309	305
Privy Middens	343	179
Pail Closets	44	44
Dry Ashpits	160	160
Ash Bins	1215	1486
Cesspools	22	26

Conversion of privies to water closets is proceeding, perhaps slowly, on the lines of the ultimate abolition of insanitary types of privy accommodation in the district, and considerable progress has been made in this direction in the period under review.

In several cases where the owners of property have failed or refused to carry out the necessary conversions, the Local Authority have executed the work in cases where conditions were deemed expedient for the health of the occupiers of the properties.

SCAVENGING.

The collection of house refuse is carried out by the direct employment of labour.

Privies and ashpits are cleared at regular intervals, varying from four to eight weeks, according to circumstances, the refuse being deposited at convenient Tips situated in various rural parts of the district.

Movable Ash Bins are emptied weekly, and it is notable that 271 more Ash Bins are now in use in the district than in 1921. Butcher's and Fish Offal is collected and removed daily.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table indicates the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action or result of action taken in regard to these.

Tabular Statement of Inspector of Nuisances for the Year ended December 31st, 1925.

Number and Nature of Inspections made.	No.	No. of Notices served.		Result of Service of Notices.			
		Statutory	Informal.	Notices complied with.	Remain- ing in hand.	Prosecutions	
						Instituted	Pend'g.
1 Dwelling Houses (General Inspections) ..	121	...	121	78	43	...	...
2 Cellar Dwellings ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 Back-to-Back Houses ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c. ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Courts, Yards, Passages ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6 Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets and Ash Bins	24	...	24	21	3	...	...
7 Cesspools ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8 House Drainage ..	54	...	54	54	...	...	...
9 Ditches, Watercourses, &c. ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 Offensive Accumulations ..	3	...	3	3	...	...	...
11 The Keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3))..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12 Offensive Trades ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
13 (a) Slaughterhouses (Public) ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" (Private) ..	24	...	5	5	...	...	...
(b) Other Places where Food is produced or sold	26	...	1	1	...	...	...
14 Piggeries ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 (a) Dairies ..	41	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Cowsheds ..		...	20	20	...	...	...
(c) Milkshops ..		...	...	...	...	...	...
16 (a) Factories ..	10	...	1	1	...	...	...
(b) Workshops ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Workplaces ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(d) Outworkers' Premises ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17 Bakehouses (Overground) ..	8	...	3	3	...	...	...
" (Underground) ..	2	...	1	1	...	...	...
18 Common Lodging Houses ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19 Houses Let in Lodgings ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 Smoke Observations ..	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
21 Canal Boats ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22 Infectious Disease (Inquiries and Re-visits) ..	62	...	...	...	...	...	...
23 Miscellaneous ..	29	...	29	29	...	...	...
Totals ..	411	...	262	216	46	...	...

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The Sanitary Inspector makes smoke observations in the district, in cases where the smoke from factory and mill chimneys appears to exceed the limit of eight minutes per hour.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

No action under this heading has been taken in the district during the period under review.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

Provision should be made for the housing of occupants of houses in which cases of infectious diseases have occurred, while such infected houses are undergoing disinfection.

SCHOOLS.

There are four Elementary Schools in the District, and the water supply in all cases is quite satisfactory.

The sanitary conveniences are satisfactory with the exception of those at the smallest school in the district—St. Martin's—and it is hoped to remedy this defect very shortly.

HOUSING.

(1) General Housing Conditions in the Area:—

- (1) The general housing conditions in the area are good, most of the houses being fairly large, and occupied by people employed in Manchester and adjacent towns.
- (2)—(a) It is estimated that if a further 150 houses were erected in the district, very little shortage would exist.
- (b) To meet the present shortage of houses the local authority are at present engaged in a two years' building programme, 50 houses to be erected, 24 in 1926 and 26 in 1927.

(2) Overcrowding.

- (1) There are 20 known cases of overcrowding in the district.
- (2) The overcrowding in the district is caused through the shortage of good cottage property.
- (3) To meet the shortage of houses the Local Authority is carrying out a programme of building 50 subsidy houses on the Brindley's farm Housing Site.
- (4) There were no outstanding cases of overcrowding in the district during the year 1925.

(3) Fitness of Houses.

- (1)—(a) The general standard of houses in the area is good. The district being a residential one, consists mainly of good suburban houses, together with smaller cottages.
- (b) The unfit houses in the district consist chiefly of small blocks of very old cottages.
- (c) Most of these old cottages have been neglected by their respective owners, and would now cost more to put them in a good state of repair than the houses are worth.
- (2) General action taken as regards unfit houses.

The Local Authority feel that the unfit houses in the district should not be closed until the prevailing shortage has been remedied.

(3) No particular difficulties have been experienced in remedying any unfitness in housing or insanitary property.

(4) **Unhealthy Areas.**

No information or complaints have been received during the period under review with regard to unhealthy areas.

(5) Bye-laws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, etc.:

There are no Bye-laws in force in the district appertaining to the foregoing heads, nor is there any apparent need for same.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	45.
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts	32.
(I.) By the Local Authority	nil.
(II.) By other bodies or persons	32.

1. **Unfit dwelling-houses.**

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	121.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	61.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	121.

2. **Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	78.
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3. **Action under Statutory Powers.**

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit;	
(a) by owners	nil.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	nil.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(a) by owners	nil.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil.

C.—Proceedings under section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made... ..	nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit... ..	nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... ..	nil.
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The milk supply of the district is fair; the arrangements for the distribution of milk are carried out entirely by private enterprise, and there is no shortage of supplies. The quality of the milk retailed in the district is good, and is produced locally. Several of the larger milk producers dispatch milk to adjacent towns.

The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, is in force in the district, and the work of inspecting the dairies and cowsheds in order that the Certificate of the Local Authority may be granted if the premises are found fit, is proceeding under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector.

There are 52 dairies and cowsheds in the district, 41 of which have been thoroughly inspected during the past year, and 20 sanitary defects were found and remedied.

- (1.) The Cheshire County Council undertake any duties or necessary action as to tuberculous milk and tuberculous cattle.
- (2.) No Licenses have been granted by the Local Authority for the sale of milk under special designations, classified as in the fourth Schedule to the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.
- (3.) No refusals or revocation of registration of retailers, or of licenses for graded milk have been effected by the Council.
- (4.) The Cheshire County Council undertake the bacteriological examination of samples of milk from time to time, and the results of such examinations have shown the milk to be invariably pure.

(b) Meat.

- (1.) Duties under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, who frequently inspects the 6 Slaughterhouses in the area on killing days.
- (2.) There are 7 Butchers' Shops in the district, which are all in good sanitary condition, and are satisfactory.

There are no Butchers' Stalls in the district.

- (3.) There is no public Slaughterhouse in the district.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES IN THE AREA.

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered... ..	0	0	0
Licensed	5	6	6
Total	5	6	6

The 6 private slaughterhouses in the district are frequently inspected, and a proper standard of cleanliness is maintained. During the past year 36 inspections of slaughterhouses have been made, and in 6 cases limewashing was found necessary. The buildings are built of brick or stone, and all have concrete floors, and are generally fairly well adapted for the requirements. Butchers' offal is collected daily.

(c) **Other Foods.**

There are 10 Bakehouses and 8 Fish Shops in the area, and 27 inspections of these premises have been made during the past year, and five defects were found.

In four Bakhouses limewashing was found to be necessary.

The existing powers for dealing with sanitary defects to bakehouses, etc., have been found to be adequate.

(d) No cases of food poisoning have been notified during the period under review.

(e) The following Acts are administered in the district by the Cheshire County Council:—

(a) Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

(b) Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923.

(c) Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923.

(d) Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES: INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

During the period under review Scarlet Fever has been the most prevalent of Infectious Diseases in the district, and in the year 1925 no fewer than 30 cases occurred, and this number was considerably in excess of any previous year since 1920. The total number of cases of Scarlet Fever which have occurred in the district during the past five years is 63, and when domiciliary treatment is impossible, cases are removed to the Hyde Isolation Hospital, where the Local Authority retain 2 Beds for cases taken from the district.

19 Cases of Diphtheria occurred during the past five years, and sundry cases of Puerperal Fever, Erysipelas, and Chicken Pox have been notified.

During the year 1923, when Smallpox was prevalent in the country, the Council took the precautionary measure of applying the provisions of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, to the disease of Chicken Pox for a period of 6 months, during which time five cases of this disease were notified.

In cases of Diphtheria the usual diphtheria anti toxin is used, but practically all cases of this nature are immediately removed to Hospital on detection.

No cases of encephalitis lethargica have occurred in the district during the period under review.

Pathological and Bacteriological examination of specimens is undertaken by the Manchester University Laboratories when necessary.

The isolation of cases of infectious diseases takes place in all cases where necessary, i.e., where no facilities for home treatment are available.

As before stated, all cases where home treatment is not practicable, cases are sent to the Hyde Isolation Hospital, where two beds are retained for cases from the district. The Sanitary Inspector takes immediate and efficient steps to secure disinfection of premises and clothing in all cases of notified or suspected infectious diseases.

The work of disinfection is carried out by the Council's own staff.

No tests known as the Schick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever cases have been made.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917, during the period under review.

The most acute non-notifiable infectious disease in the district has been measles, which has chiefly affected school children, and in several instances it was found necessary to close the elementary schools for varying periods.

The mortality from Influenza during the past five years has been of a normal character.

The cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons is generally undertaken by the Poor Law Authorities at Stockport.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1925.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	30	24	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.**New Cases and Mortality in 1925.**

Age Period	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 & Upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	2	2	—	4	2	—	—

**PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)
REGULATIONS, 1925.**

No action under the above Regulations was necessary during the past year.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

No action was taken by the Council under this section during the year 1925.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A Local Centre for Infant Welfare is established at the Girls' Institute, Marple, under the direction of the Cheshire County Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme. The local Centre is well maintained; the majority of the children attending are healthy, well clothed, and well cared for, and the work of the Centre has won praise from the County Council on the efficiency of the administration.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

During the period under review three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum have been notified.

The following table shows the results of the cases notified:—

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Notified	Cases Treated.		Vision Un- impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
		At Home	Hospital				
2	2	2	...	2			
1	1	...	1	1			
...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
...			

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, and WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspec- tions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prose- cuted
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	10	1	...
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	90	12	...
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers Premises)	...	...	...
Total	100	13	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.

Particulars	Number of Defects.			Number of Prose- cutions.
	Found.	Reme- died.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:				
Want of Cleanliness	11	11	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of Floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances	1	1	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation } Insufficient	1	...	...	...
} Unsuitable or Defective	1	1	...	...
} Not separate for sexes ... ..	...	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—				
Illegal occupation of underground Bake- house (s. 101) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Offences (Excluding offences relating to out- work)	...	...	...	...
Total	13	13	...	...

There are 10 Factories and 23 Workshops in the district, all the buildings of which are in a satisfactory state as regards ventilation and cleanliness, while the sanitary arrangements on the whole are good, with the exception of those at the Ridge Mills, Marple, where the sanitary arrangements need attention.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

In concluding my report, gentlemen, I beg to again submit the following recommendations:—

1. Sewerage.

The sewerage of property at Strines, Barnsfold Road, and Stone Row, Marple, should be executed as soon as possible, also the 9-inch surface sewer in Stockport Road, between the Post Office and Union Road, should be re-laid with 12-inch pipes.

2. Ambulance.

I consider the provision of an Ambulance for the district very essential, in view of the fact that in case of necessity ambulances provided by neighbouring Authorities and Hospitals have to be requisitioned.

3. Public Mortuary.

There is no public mortuary in the district, and I consider it of great importance that steps should be taken to provide a Mortuary where bodies could be received, and any necessary post-mortem examinations made.

The present arrangements are not good, and I strongly urge the provision of suitable accommodation for the reception of dead persons, without delay.

4. Public Baths.

No public baths are available in the district, and persons desirous of using such Baths have to go to Hyde or Stockport.

I consider the provision of Public Washing Baths in the district a necessity.

5. Public Urinal.

The provision of a public Urinal and Conveniences in the War Memorial Park is to be commended, and I consider it urgent that some further accommodation in this direction should be made in the village itself.

At present there is no public Urinal or Convenience in the village (apart from those in the War Memorial Park and Recreation Ground), and I consider the erection of additional accommodation to be of great importance.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES JACKSON,

B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O

MARPLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SURVEYOR'S AND INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARPLE.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to place before you my Annual Report for the year 1925.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

I have from time to time inspected premises for the purpose of ascertaining the existence of sanitary defects, with the result that 203 defects were found, of which 137 have been remedied, 66 remaining in hand.

The Sanitary defects dealt with were as follows:—

Defective and Insufficient Privies	24
Defective Drains	54
Structural Defects... ..	12
Dirty Conditions	3
Improper Water Supply	14
Limewashing of Slaughter-Houses... ..	6
Limewashing of Bakehouses... ..	4
Defects in Dairies and Cowsheds	20
	<hr/>
	137

WATER CLOSETS, PRIVIES, AND ASHPITS.

The number of water closets and other sanitary conveniences in the district are as follows:—

Water Closets... ..	1315
Slop Water Closets	305
Privy Middens	179
Pail Closets	44
Dry Ashpits... ..	160
Ash Bins	1486
Cesspools	26

COLLECTION OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This work is carried out by the direct employment of labour. The Privies and Ashpits are cleared at regular periods, varying from four to eight weeks.

The Ash Bins are emptied weekly.

Butcher and Fish Offal is collected daily.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS.

The work of the destruction of rats is now carried out by the officer of the County Council, who visits the various Tips and Sewage Works every eight to ten weeks.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year there were 31 cases of infectious disease, consisting of:—

	Cases.
Erysipelas	1
Scarlet Fever	30
Diphtheria	0
Consumption	0
Puerperal Fever	0

Twenty-Four Cases of Scarlet Fever were sent to Hospital, the remaining cases being nursed at home.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The dairies and cowsheds have had considerable attention. 41 have been inspected, 23 were found to be satisfactory, and 20 sanitary defects have been remedied.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 10 bakehouses in the district; all have been inspected, and in four cases Limewashing was found to be necessary.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are six slaughter-houses in the district, each of which have been inspected four times during the year; on five occasions it was necessary to require limewashing to be done.

CANAL BOATS.

There is now very little traffic on the Macclesfield and Peak Forest Canal. Seven canal boats were inspected during the year.

SEWERS.

The sewers of the district have been periodically examined, and appear to be in good order.

Some of the outlying parts of the district are still without proper sewers, the most pressing being Strines Road, Turf Lea, Ridge End, Stone Row, Windlehurst Road, and Barnsfold, probably the most important being the sewer to Barnsfold, as this sewer (or Part) is necessary to drain the Ridge Mills.

The Surface water drain on Stockport Road, between Union Road and the Post Office, should be re-laid with larger pipes.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The works for the purification of sewage (that is the sewage up to three times dry weather flow), consists of one screening chamber of 6,000 gallons capacity, septic tanks of 95,000 gallons capacity, primary filters of 600 yards superficial area, secondary filters of 500 yards superficial area, and three acres of land. The works for dealing with storm water above three times dry weather flow consist

of two tanks of total capacity of 80,000 gallons. The sewage flowing to the works in dry weather is 160,000 gallons per day, which flow will increase corresponding with the erection of new buildings, and the conversion of privies to water closets.

Three final effluent samples taken during the year under review by the officers of the Mersey and Irwell Rivers Board were all satisfactory.

NEW BUILDINGS.

The number of new dwellings completed during the year under review was 45, of which 32 were subsidy houses; 27 houses are now in the course of erection.

The number of dwelling-houses completed during the past five years are as follows:—

Year 1925	... ..	45 houses.
„ 1924	... ..	39 houses.
„ 1923	... ..	24 houses.
„ 1922	... ..	31 houses.
„ 1921	... ..	6 houses.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is obtained from the Stockport Corporation, and is delivered by gravitation into the Council's Reservoir at Wybersley. No difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the water required.

WATER MAINS.

The Surveyor draws attention to the following water mains, which have become badly incusted, and should be scraped as soon as possible.

The Trunk Main from reservoir to village.

Water Main in Bowden Lane, Cross Lane, Oldknow Road.

Water Main in Station Road, from Hollins Lane to Brabyns.

Water Main in Stockport Road, from Market Street to Sailor Hotel.

Before the 8in. trunk main from reservoir can be scraped it is necessary to provide an alternative route for the water from reservoir to the village by which means the village water supply can be maintained, whilst the 8in. trunk main is being scraped.

To obtain this alternative supply it will be necessary to replace the 900 yards of 4in. dia. pipe in Andrew Lane by a 6in. dia. pipe, and to lay a new length of 4in. water main of about 350 yards at Barlow Wood to connect the water mains at Strines with the water mains of the village.

FIRE BRIGADE.

Fire protection is provided by means of roadside boxes containing appliances for extinguishing small fires.

These boxes, seven in number, together with a Hose Cart containing similar appliances, are the only form of protection provided.

Your Surveyor is of opinion that this important question should be considered at an early date.

PARKS AND RECREATION GROUND.

The Area of Public Parks and Playing Fields in the district is as follows :—

Marple Memorial Park... ..	12½ acres.
Marple Recreation Ground	5½ acres.
Hawk Green... ..	8 acres.
Windlehurst Recreation Ground	$\frac{1}{4}$ acres.
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Total	26¼ acres.

Provision for playing tennis and bowls is made in the Memorial Park, for football on the Recreation Ground, where a special area is reserved for children, for whom swings are provided.

During the past year swings have been provided at the Windlehurst Recreation Ground.

HOUSING.

The number of houses in the district is 1,847; the number of working-class houses is 1,474.

HOUSING SITE.

Arrangements have been made for the disposal of the above land in building plots, and for advancing loans to builders. Eight plots have been sold.

MAIN ROADS.

The repairs carried out during the year include the reconstruction of Stockport Road from Dan Bank to Market Street, the surface being laid with tarmacadam.

Lengths of tarmacadam were also laid on Strines Road, and at High Lane, the total area of tarmacadam laid being 15,228 yards.

The area of tarmacadam tarsprayed was 23,399 yards.

ROAD WIDENING AT PRIESTFIELD.

This improvement has again been included in the estimate for the repairs of Main Roads.

DAN BANK.

Your Surveyor reports a serious subsidence on the South side of Dan Bank, the subsidence being about 100 yards long, and continues to extend.

The Council is aware that the road is made on a bench cut into the hillside, the level of the road varying from 30ft. to 60ft. above the level of the stream, the whole bank is very unstable, the instability apparently being caused by the existence of a substratum of quicksand, the outcrop of which is at the brook level, where it is known to be several feet in thickness.

The question to be decided is by what means can the road be stabilised, and at the moment four methods are being considered.

1. To construct rubble drains from the brook to the road, such drains to be of sufficient depth to release the water held by the quickstands, and sufficiently strong to form an abutment to the road; four or five of these abutments would be required to deal with the length now moving.

2. To widen the road on the north side, and to move the roadway further into the bank and away from the slipping edge of the dingle.

This method would necessitate the building of a heavy retaining wall to support the bank above the road, the level of such bank being 35ft. above the road; on the top of this bank the Farm House and Farm Buildings have been erected, the distance between these buildings and the roadway being about 100 feet.

3. To make a new road from Dooley Lane behind Dan Bank Farm to join the present Road at the lower Hall Gates.
4. To culvert the stream and to fill the dingle, the first 10 feet to be filled with earth from the banks, the remaining filling to be done gradually with refuse.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, AND ROADS IMPROVEMENT ACT, 1925.

Your Surveyor draws attention to the above Acts, which confer on the Council the power to prescribe Building Lines and Improvement Lines on Highways.

The County Council have similar powers with reference to Main Roads, and the Cheshire County Council have decided to recommend Town Planning Authorities to provide building lines and improvement lines as follows:—

	Minimum Width of road.	Min. set back for buildings.	Total width between bldgs.
Class One Roads... ..	60 feet	30 feet	120 ft.
Class Two Roads... ..	50 feet	25 feet	100 ft.

DISTRICT ROADS.

The repairs to district roads during the year under review consists chiefly of patching repairs and tarring, the only length of road improved being Market Street, which has been reconstructed, the surface being aid with tarmacadam.

Your Surveyor draws attention to the weak condition of Old Know Road, Hibbert Lane from Cross Lane to Hawk Green, Windlehurst Road from Tomlinson's Barn to High Lane, Andrew Lane and Church Lane from Empress Avenue to the Church Schools, and suggests that a considerable area of district roads should be strengthened each year.

PRIVATE STREETS.

No Private Street Works have been carried out during the year. The following streets are in a bad condition, and should be made up, and taken over by the Council:—

East Vale,	Union Road,	Grosvenor Road,
John Street,	Highfield Terrace,	Bradshaw Road,
Chadwick Street,	Ellesmere Avenue.	Ley Hey Road,
Chapel Fields,	Oakdene Road,	

TOWN PLANNING.

The Council has taken the preliminary step in this matter, and have scheduled the whole district, as the area to be dealt with under the scheme.

WORKS RECOMMENDED FOR EARLY ATTENTION.

1. The Sewering of Strines and Strines Road.
2. The Sewering of Turt Lea and Ridge End.
3. The Sewering of Windlehurst Road.
4. The Sewering of Stone Row.
5. The Sewering of Barnsfold and Ridge Mill.
6. The laying of 6in. Water Main in Andrew Lane to connect the old rising main to the new 6in. water main at Windlehurst.
7. The Scraping of water mains in Cross Lane, Station Road, Stockport Road, Bowden Lane, and Old Know Road.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. J. DIVER,

Surveyor and Inspector.

